

Caples
HO-517, John ~~Caples~~ House
5799 Railroad Avenue, Elkridge
Surveyed by: Kristin Hill
March 2003

ADDENDUM

Section 3. Owner of Property

Joseph Moineau
5799 Railroad Avenue
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Section 4. Location of Legal Description

Howard County Courthouse
Ellicott City
Liber 4194, Folio 388
Tax map 38, Parcel 680

Section 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

X Other Contributing building in the Elkridge Landing Historic Survey District, HO-784

Section 7. Description

Condition: Good
Date: ca. 1865

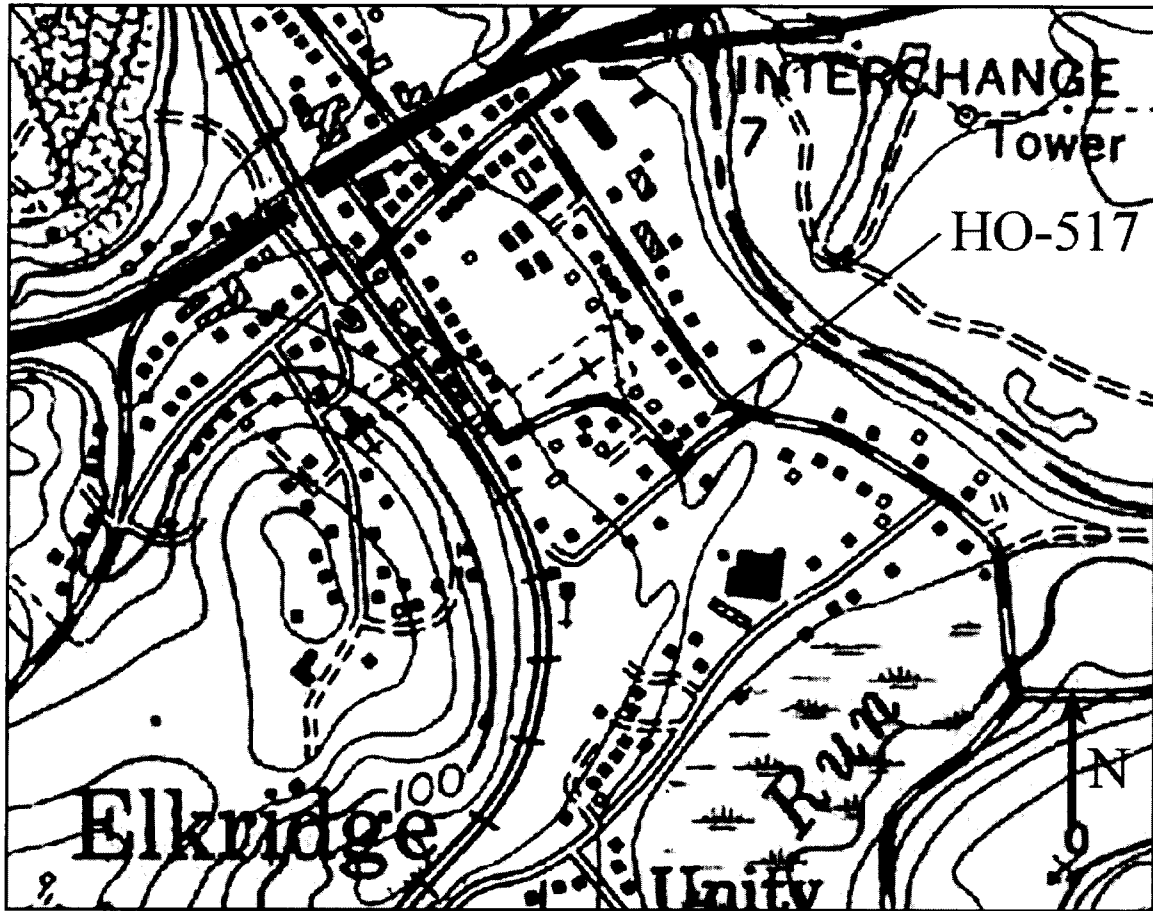
Recorded in the 1970's as the John Caples House, this two story three bay frame dwelling on a brick foundation is very similar in form to several houses in the immediate vicinity. It faces south on the north side of the road one house west of the intersection with Furnace Avenue. The side gabled roof over the front single pile is intersected by a rear two story single pile cross gabled wing which extends from the two western-most bays on the rear façade. A single brick stovepipe chimney projects from the center of the ridge of the side gabled section which has a boxed cornice. A central entry on the first story of the front façade is flanked by a window on either side and two windows on the second story are vertically aligned over the first story windows. A single story hipped roof porch completes the front façade and retains some original elements that have been replaced on other buildings. The porch supports are square wood posts with chamfered corners, the porch floor is wood, and it rests on brick piers. The porch has no balustrade. The original windows in the house have been replaced with 1/1 vinyl units and the house is clad in vinyl siding and capped by an asphalt shingle roof. A very large frame outbuilding clad in plywood with a gambrel roof is located behind the house. It is extremely difficult to date this building from exterior evidence only but it is possible that this is the structure shown on both the 1860 Martenet map and the 1878 Hopkins map as belonging to Jas. Harman.

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Section 11. Form Prepared by

Kristin H. Hill, Architectural Historian
Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-4335
May 2003



HO-517, John ^{Caples} Caples House
 Elkridge, Howard County, MD
 USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Relay
 7.5 Minute Series, 1957 (PR 1966 and 1974)



SPEED
LIMIT
25

HO-517

circa 1860

The John Caples House

Elkridge

Private

The John Caples House faces south on the north side of Railroad Avenue, one house west of its intersection with Furnace Avenue. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame structure, resting on a brick foundation, with central, square brick chimney and one bay wide, one bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame north wing, also resting on a brick foundation off the west side of the building's north wall. Additionally, one story high, shed roofed, appendages are presently under construction, along this latter section's east wall.

This building is believed to be the Harman House, noted on both the Martennet Map of 1860 and the Hopkin's Atlas of 1878.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-517
Dist. 1

MAI # 146517550+

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The John Caples House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER .5793 Railroad Avenue

CITY, TOWN Elkridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th

STATE Maryland

COUNTY
Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Virginia Moss

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
5869 Main Street

CITY, TOWN Elkridge

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland, 21227

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 38, p. 681
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 66
Folio #: 221

STREET & NUMBER
Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE
1978-1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTIONHO-517
Dist. 1**CONDITION**☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Caples House faces south on the north side of Railroad Avenue, one house west of its intersection with Furnace Avenue. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame structure, resting on a brick foundation, with central, square brick chimney and one bay wide, one bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame north wing, resting on a brick foundation, off the west side of the building's north wall. Additional one story high, shed roofed appendages are presently under construction, along this latter section's east wall.

A one story high, hipped roof, open porch, supported by four square wooden posts runs along almost the entire south elevation, covering the central rectangular, cross paneled door, which is surmounted by a two light transom.

Fenestration for the house is vertically aligned and double-hung, holding both six-over-six and two-over-two lights. The latter occur almost entirely on the front elevation, while the former occur on the east and west elevations.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Local History		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1870 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Caples House is significant to the State of Maryland and Howard County architecturally as an example of a three bay wide, two story house of the mid nineteenth century and historically as the residence of Mr. Caples, who constructed it circa 1870.

Architecturally, it is a simple, narrow, three bay wide, two story house, constructed in an "L" plan, with central hall and fireplaces in each of the two downstairs rooms and the kitchen's north wall.

Not only is the Caples House important individually, but it is significant to the streetscape along the north side of Railroad Avenue from Furnace Road, west to Paradise Avenue, which leads to the Baptist Church, an early nineteenth century congregation, which has constructed a new church on the site of the old, located at the end of the south side of Paradise Avenue and noted on the 1860 Martenmet Map. The Caples House serves as both an architectural and an historic anchor to the southeast corner of the Railroad Avenue Historic District. It, in conjunction with the two double houses west of it, provide an interesting, as well as connecting visual element to the streetscape, leading up to the Baptist Church.

A modern twentieth century brick house rests in the northwest corner of Furnace Road and Railroad Avenue. It might be called a contributing site for its scale and residential use in no way disturb the general character of the area. The two houses, lying west, originally double, two story high, frame houses with central brick chimneys, contribute and add continuity to the architectural character of this section of Railroad Avenue. Mrs. Fairbanks House, HO-516, located on the northwest corner of Railroad Avenue and Paradise Avenue continues this rythm, though its Victorian gingerbread additions, see Section 7, Description of HO-516, as well as its alignment facing east, rather than south, offers a creative accent and architectural focal point to the streetscape. West of this corner house are two modern twentieth century structures, built by a Mr. Hood, who once owned the Mrs. Fairbanks House and the land west of the house, comprising these two lots.

Further west still is HO-515, the Shipley House, and its two auxiliary nineteenth century structures. That southwest of the Shipley House is an early structure, noted on the 1860 Martenmet Map and originally comprising four rooms, two up and two down, with central brick chimney. Today, Mr. Melvin Gray has constructed a large east wing to this otherwise modest structure.

An attempt has been made to indicate the architectural importance of these relatively

modest structures individually, but important in their aggregate, along the north side of Paradise and Railroad Avenues, which form the southern boundary to the Railroad Avenue Historic District. Though modest, several are noted on the 1860 Marten-net Map and all on the 1878 Hopkin's Atlas. It would have been relatively simple to deal with only the northern section of Railroad Avenue, but in doing so, these worthwhile buildings and their composite structure might have been ignored, and the importance of protecting them overlooked. Any inclusion to the National Register of Historic Sites should incorporate these houses, which form a rather strong architectural, as well as historic composition.

Historically, it was owned by the Moss family in the early twentieth century. Virginia Peery Moss inherited the property from her mother, Mrs. Sallie C. Peery, who in turn inherited this house and lot from Christina Toomey. On September 18, 1896 (66-221) Daniel Murray, a trustee in a case in Equity in the Howard County Circuit Court sold the house and lot to Christina Toomey at public auction. In the proceedings, an old deed of April 1, 1870, in which Charity Fairbanks sold this lot to John T. Caples for \$104.84, stated the following provision: "to allow him for the dwelling to be erected on said lot to use water from her pumps standing on her land in common with the family of the said Charity Fairbanks and those deriving like under her to her present residence and in common with any other person or persons to whom the same privilege may be granted".

By September 7, 1876, the house had been constructed, and was noted then, in the will of John Thomas Caples, as the house and lot "where I now live", "acquired by him by deed from Charity Fairbanks".

Architecturally and historically noteworthy, the John Caples House, in conjunction with The Railroad Avenue Historic District, should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, The State Critical Areas Program, and any local landmark ordinance, the residents of the area may seek to initiate.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Record of Howard County
Interview with Mr. Moss, son of Virginia Moss,
Main Street, Elkridge
Saturday, February 17, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 lot plus improvements

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 38

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 66 Folio 221

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Howard

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

To Harbor RESERVOIR

(WATER SUPPLY)

2647002

R.R.

497

49

382

District Boundary

ELKRIDGE

HEIGHTS RD

ELKRIDGE

RAILROAD AVENUE

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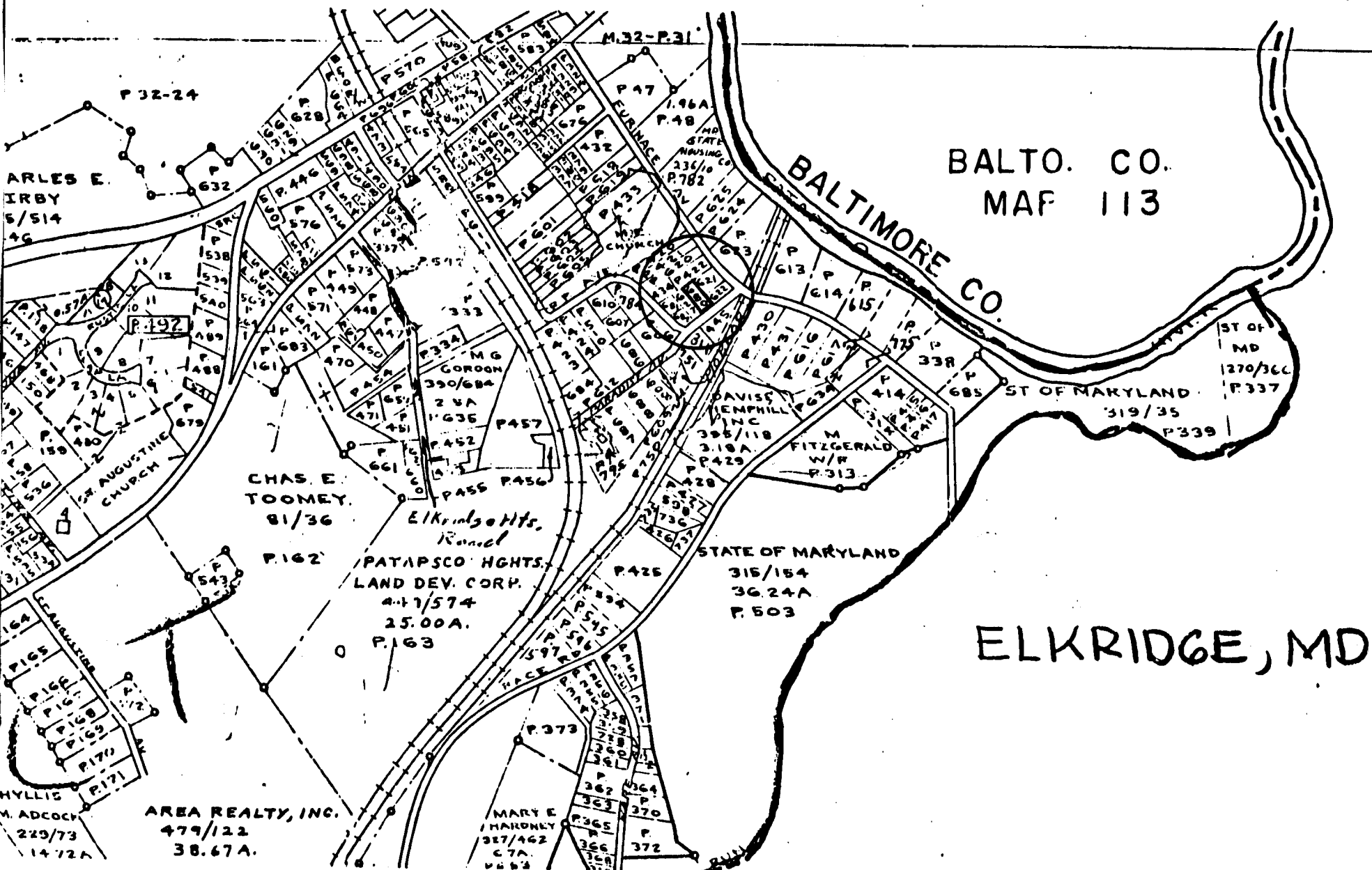
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Attachment 1

HO-517

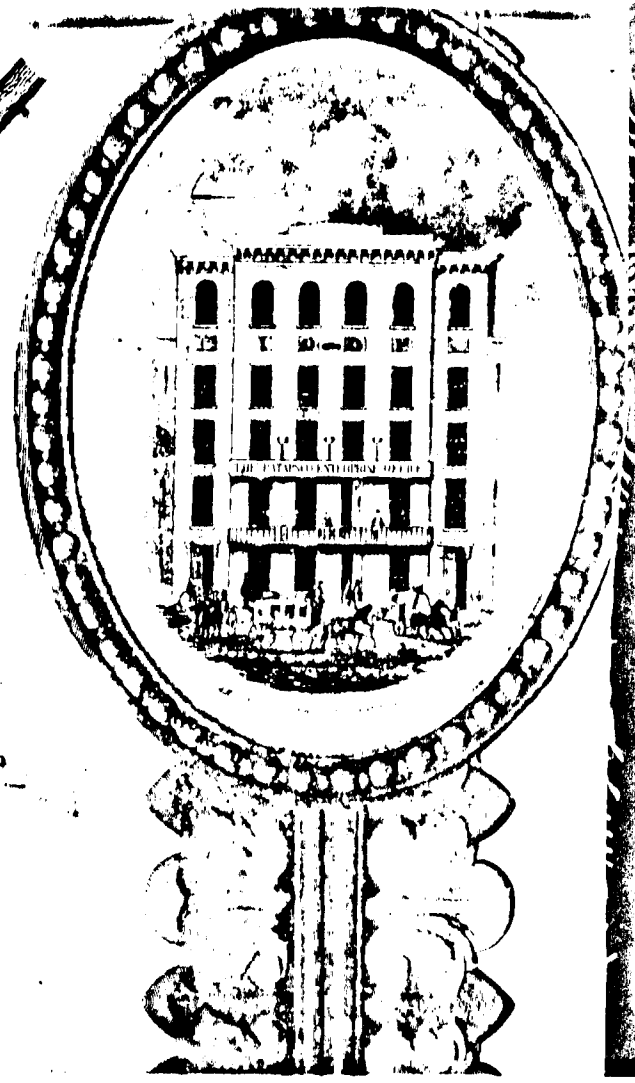
The John Caples House

Tax Map 38



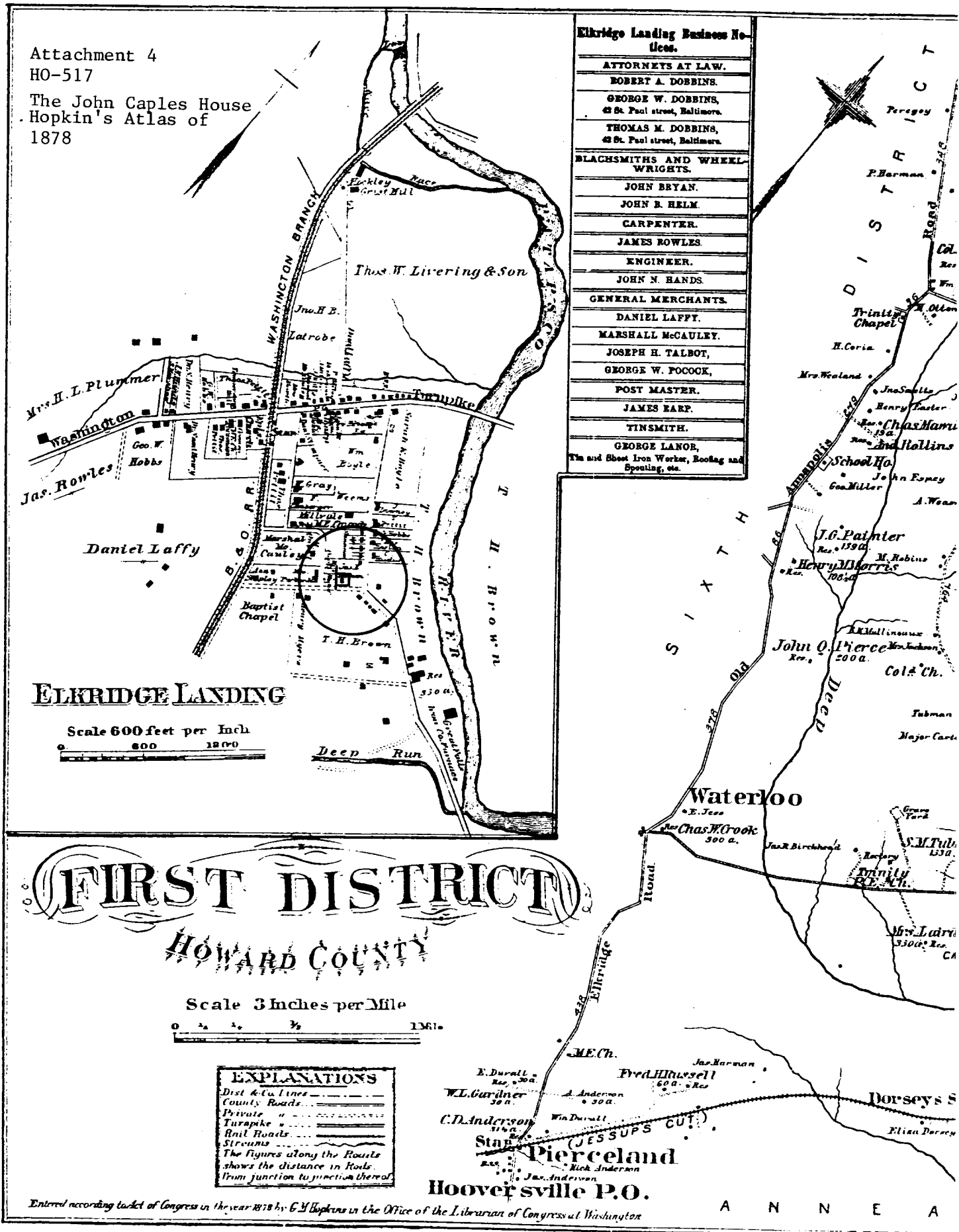


Attachment 3
HO-517
The John Caples House
Martennet Map of 1860

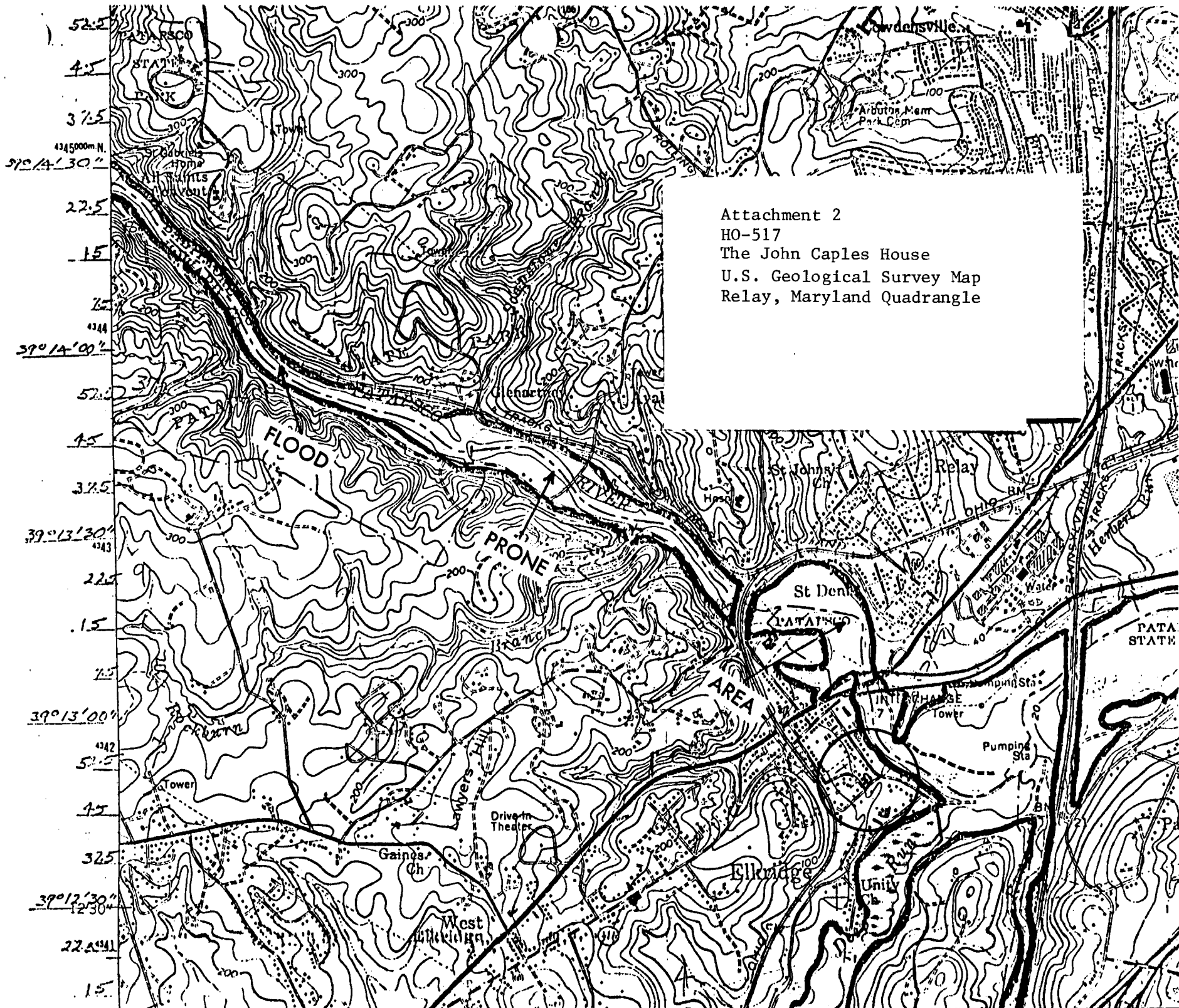


Attachment 4
HO-517

The John Caples House
Hopkin's Atlas of
1878



Relay, Maryland Quadrangle





Ho-517
The John Caples House
SW

Cleora Thompson, AICP
February, 1979